

NEBRASKA DDD/MLTC WAIVER WORKGROUP: APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY
MARCH 3, 2016

Participants: Nina Baker, (PTI), Rita Briggs (DHHS-DDD), Laurie ChisholmLock, (DSN), Jana Deines, (DHHS-DDD), Jennifer Diodene-Vrbas, (DHHS-DDD), Tiffany Gonzalas, (CARES), Brigid Griffin (VocRehab), Rita Hammitt, (NE Dept. of Ed), Debbie Herbel, (Mosaic), Kathy Hoell, (NE Statewide Ind. Living Council), Sherry Jameson, (DHHS MLTC), Kathy Kay, (League of Human Dignity), Charyl Lentz, (DHHS – MLTC), Dana Maaske, (DHHS-DDD), Marlene Mailahn Chirnside, (CARES), Karen Masterson, (Disability Rights of NE.), Robert Mathena, (DHHS-DDD), Leon Merrell, (DHHS- MLTC), Mike Munn, (Region I OHD), Amy Nutter (DHHS – DDD), Deborah Peterson, (DHHS-DDD), Peggy Reisher, (Brain Injury Association of NE), Daryn Richardson, (Vodec), Amy Slama, (ESU 7), Brandi Stolle (DHHS- MLTC), Joyful Stoves (DHHS-DDD), Jean Tuller (DHHS- Consultant), Diane Wagner, (Northstar), Alan Zavodny, (Northstar), Pam Hovis (DHHS – DDD), and Ladonna K. Shippen (DHHS- DDD).

Notes Recorder: Ladonna K. Shippen, DSS Supervisor

Next Meeting (date/time): March 16, 2016 (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.)

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome! Introductions
- 2) Sign in Sheet Reminder
- 3) Background – current process, pilot process
- 4) Draft application for DD services
- 5) Next meeting

Topic	Person Responsible	Discussion	Action Item
Purpose of workgroup	Pam Hovis and Ladonna K. Shippen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stabilize the waivers by making them acceptable and approvable to CMS;Medicaid and DD collaborating on better oversight of all Medicaid waivers – Division of MLTC is the Single State Medicaid Agency and operates the AD waiver but oversees the DD waivers; Division of DD is the Operating Agency for the DD Medicaid waivers (Day,Application and eligibility process: (1) Streamline the process for applying for DD Services; (2): Shorten the timeframe(s) for both applying for and determining initial and waiver eligibility; (3) Improve overall and provide quality customer service at the front end; (4) Redraft and update the Notice of Decision into understanding, plan, useful language; (5) Once determined, provide timely notification of eligibility; (6) Provide resources regardless of eligibility status.	Workgroup participants will provide feedback on application, eligibility and specific waiver sections related to eligibility determination.

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Timeline of Waiver Application submission and rewrite of the current Title 404 regulations to be in compliance with the Waivers.	Pam Hovis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of DDD's current workflow process of determining DD initial eligibility. How we got where we are at – the tie-into the State's Transition Plan to comply with HCB regulations and resubmission of the Waivers. Re-write Waivers and re-write Title 404 regulations to match the Waivers. 	Submit rewritten waivers in September 2016.
Current Eligibility Workflow process	Pam Hovis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pam explained the current eligibility process (90 day timeframe) and how an individual currently applies for DD services. Discussion from Workgroup participants involved concern of current practice and timeliness of eligibility determinations at present. 	Immediate implementation of shortened timeline. Will assign file to DSS at 45 days rather than waiting 90 days before assigning file.
Revised Application and working with Access-Nebraska	Pam and Ladonna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed proposed application. Some concerns raised were: (a) the individual's ability to understand the current application and how to apply; (b) adding an informational page to the application – providing further explanation about DD services; (c) added information the application such as: "assistance may be available", using same acronyms, Section 3 – guardianship – making it more clear, adding a place for an individual to indicate that he/she is homeless, questions about the "Notice of Rights" and the Notice of Obligation" and does this need to be part of the initial application?, etc. Discussion was held regarding the "consent" to release records. 	With Stakeholder input, continue to work with Access-Nebraska and NOFOCUS Enhancement project team – target date for completion is August, 2016. Continue to work with DHHS Legal division to revise the consent to release records for the application.
Pilot Eligibility process	Pam and Ladonna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot project - DSSs are assigned eligibility file earlier and make contact with applicants throughout determination process. DSS plays active role in obtaining correct records for eligibility determination. Keeping data on timeframes, decisions, and responsiveness of applicants. 	Ladonna and Pam will provide data on pilot project 5/25/16.
Outreach		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workgroup participants held discussion regarding what DHHS is doing to provide information to the community 	Workgroup will provide suggestions for important information 3/16/16.

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		regarding eligibility, application process and what services DDD provides. Discussion was held regarding more presentations in the community and working more closely with DHHS partners.	

Considerations for 2017: Continue to find ways to improve DDD by providing information to the community and all DHHS partners. Concerns were raised regarding how to work with older individuals who want to apply for DD services who may not have records for DHHS to review in order to determine eligibility and how to provide information to other targeted populations such as an individual with TBI who may not see themselves as qualifying for DD services. They don't believe that they have a developmental disability and concern about individuals who may have been determined ineligible and what they might need to provide in order to meet DD requirements